

America's First Team First-ever to Fire Excalibur Precision Munition in Combat

By **Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma**
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted the first operational firing of the XM982 Excalibur, a 155mm precision-guided, extended-range artillery projectile, targeting a well-known safe house for insurgents in northern region of

the Iraqi capital May 5.

Elements from the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, teamed up to fire the historical shot documenting the future capabilities of the Army's artillery power and pin-point precision.

The Ironhorse Soldiers headed out on a dismounted patrol towards the impact site in the green rural area of Taji and secured the site. Afterward they

headed for an observation point and waited for the call for fire.

The Excalibur, a combination of U.S. guidance expertise and Swedish airframe experience, targeted a house with a history of insurgent activity situated in the farmlands about two miles from base.

According to the commander of the 1st Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., Lt. Col. Kevin Macwatters, the owner of the house was detained by the previous unit for the murders of several Iraqis and docu-

mented on a videotape was the scenes of the insurgent and his family pushing bodies into the Tigris River.

"Whenever we conduct missions in the area, terrorist operating in the area would flee to this house because it's isolated, so they feel safe here," said Macwatters.

Since then the unit has received intelligence of the

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The First Team Honors Wounded, Volunteers

By **Sgt. Cheryl Cox**
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas - The 1st Cavalry Division leadership recognized Soldiers who have come home from Iraq due to injuries and First Team volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of the Soldiers at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center here May 22.

"Self-sacrifice is the real miracle from which all other miracles grow," said Col. Larry Phelps, the 1st Cavalry Division (rear) commander, during his opening remarks for the ceremony. "Self-sacrifice doesn't wait to be asked. It is an honor to be here to honor these American originals today."

In attendance for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. John Campbell, the deputy com-

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(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs)

Twistin' Tourniquet Tighter

Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Atienza, of Fayetteville, N.C., the medical platoon sergeant for 2nd Bn., 319th Abn. FA Regt., demonstrates how to apply a tourniquet during combat lifesaver training for soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 3rd Bn., 2nd Bde., 6th Div. May 20.



(Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

An XM982 Excalibur precision-guided artillery round falls onto a well-known insurgent safe house during combat operations in the northern region of Baghdad May 5. Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division fired the round from their M109A6 Paladin howitzer on Camp Taji, Iraq.

Ironhorse Troops Call in Historical Shot

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continued use of the house as a safe haven for militia activity in the area and last month they were able to confirm that information after a cordon and search of the house and the surrounding area uncovered artillery rounds, mortar rounds, and rocket launching rails.

Macwatters added that the use of this GPS guided artillery round is part of our

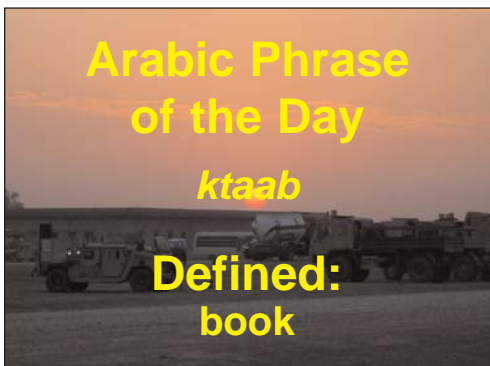
overall campaign of taking safe houses away from the enemy and by limiting the enemy's mobility. The decrease of the insurgent mobility has lead to an increase in the amount of information local nationals are willing to provide, because they don't feel the constant threat of a strong insurgent hold on the village.




And with its accuracy and increased effectiveness, the Excalibur reduces the logistical burden for deployed ground forces. It also provides lower collateral

damage through its concentrated fragmentation pattern, increased precision and near-vertical descent.

"This could be a tool we use in the future to precisely eliminate enemy equipment, safe houses, weapons caches, or whatever the case may be," said Macwatters.

Finally, Soldiers heard "Splash, Out," followed by "Splash, Over," and then they saw the impact point, a house tied to militia activity, come crumbling down.



Iraq 3-Day Weather Report			
	Today	Tomorrow	Sunday
High: 112 Low: 79	High: 112 Low: 79	High: 110 Low: 79	

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Heroes in Uniform, Civilian Clothes Honored by Leadership Back Home

Heroes

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manding general for maneuver for Multi-National Division - Baghdad and the 1st Cav. Div., and Brig. Gen. William F. Grimsley, the deputy commanding general for the 4th Infantry Division, as well as many First Team Soldiers, Family Members and Fort Hood community members.

"I am honored everyday to stand in formation with American, and today is no exception," said Grimsley, addressing the audience after awarding nine Purple Hearts.

Along with the Purple Heart recipients, volunteers throughout the division were recognized for their selfless service to their units, families and communities.

"The volunteers this month

are being thanked for their many hours of service to others," said Wendy Fil, wife of the division commanding general, Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr. "It is people like you who make the Army an Army Family."

As Grimsley addressed those in attendance, he explained the importance of the day's ceremony.

"We have no shortage of the number of people who call themselves heroes," said Grimsley. "But these Soldiers sitting in front of you are true heroes. They are an immediate and ready reminder of what makes our Army great. They do what they do with little fanfare, and they do it well."

As Grimsley closed his portion of the ceremony, he expressed his emotions about the Purple Heart recipients.

"No amount of medals or

money will compensate for the sacrifices these Soldiers make," he said. "Our job is to ensure that the gift of freedom that these Soldiers fight for isn't

squandered or taken for granted. These Soldiers, honored here today, have given us a tremendous legacy to live to forever."

"No amount of medals or money will compensate for the sacrifices these Soldiers make."

Brig. Gen. William F. Grimsley
Deputy commanding general, 4th Infantry Division



(Photo by Spc. William Grove, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Spc. Patrick Pollas, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, is presented with a Purple Heart by Brig. Gen. William F. Grimsley, the 4th Infantry Division's deputy commanding general, during a ceremony held May 22 at the Fort Hood Catering and Conference Center. Pollas was one of nine Soldiers presented with the Purple Heart during the ceremony.

Safety Note

Electrical Fire Hazard

Most circuits are limited to 20 amps at the circuit breaker box. Power strips are normally rated at 10 or 15 amps. **The power strip will burn before the circuit breaker trips.** Ensure lights, heaters, coffee pots, computers and other equipment don't destroy your area of operation.



BE SAFE, GET HOME!

To the left is an example of what can happen as a result of carelessness.



(Courtesy of Warner Bros Pictures)

Toes Tap to the Value-Heavy Flick

In human culture, dancing has always been a language of love. Wrapping your arms around each other and swaying to the music on the dance floor is standard. In fact, many of us learned how to dance in elementary school. Of course back then, cooties were raging and no self-respecting boy wanted to hold hands with a girl.

Apparently, penguins have a different love language. Singing. In fact these "heart songs" are how the females choose their mate, at least that is according to the Warner Brothers' movie "Happy Feet."

Our main character, Mumble (voiced by Elijah Wood), is the odd man out. During the long winter, when he was still in the egg, his papa, Memphis (voiced by Hugh Jackman), dropped him into the cold, arctic snow of the South Pole. This is a huge, often fatal mistake for a daddy to make. Because of this, Mumble was a slow developer and couldn't find his voice. He could, however, dance up a storm. To the elder's disgust, he tap dances every time he's happy.

We can't help but love Mumble. He is fuzzy and cute the entire movie. Even when all the other penguins of his class had lost their baby feathers Mumble still

Random Review

By Sgt.
Nicole
Kojetin



had his from the neck up, but he is a grown up inside and is more than willing to prove it.

It seems that these penguins are heading for disaster. The aliens (also known as humans) have moved to Antarctica and are scooping up their food supply. Mumble sets out to stop them.

There are a couple themes in this Academy Award and Golden Globe winning movie. The first is about being different. In adolescence, every one wants to be a part of the crowd. When you're little it almost feels like a sin to be different. This movie shows that being unique does not have to be a bad thing; in fact, you can save your entire species.

The second theme is "watch what you eat." You would have to be blind to not understand that the writers of "Happy Feet" feet are trying to tell us something. Actually, the only way it could be blunter

is if Mumble tapped on the inside of the television set and yelled, "Hello! You are eating all of my food!"

The problem is that fishing in the area has reduced the numbers of certain species down to dangerous levels and this movie is a tool to create awareness. The DVD even comes with a wallet-sized guide to what fish eat and what to avoid in order to preserve the ocean's balance.

This movie was fun to watch - a little silly, a bunch of music and lots of big names voiced the characters (Nicole Kidman, Robin Williams and Steve Irvin, to name a few).

It is a good one for all ages.
(Four out of five stars!)

